

How to Identify a Suitable Site for a SolShare Solar PV System

UK

Version C2

INTRODUCTION TO THE SOLSHARE


Allume manufacture the world's only hardware for connecting multiple flats to a single rooftop solar PV system. It offers a simple and affordable method to improve the sustainability credentials of new-build and existing apartment buildings, while reducing the electricity bills for the households living within them.

As the SolShare connects flats directly to solar PV, it qualifies for SAP 10.2 solar PV credits on new builds and improves EPC ratings for existing buildings. The SolShare can be installed by any renewable energy installer, qualifies for MCS accreditation, and is approved for installation within any DNO.

You can learn more about Allume and the SolShare via [this 10-minute video presentation](#).

INTRODUCTION TO THIS DOCUMENT

The SolShare unlocks the ability to connect flats directly to rooftop solar, but blocks of flats come in many shapes and sizes. How do you know which buildings are suitable for a SolShare solar PV system? This document will help you identify suitable buildings for a SolShare system.

If you have any questions or require more technical information, like datasheets and installation manuals, please contact Allume: 

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A. HOW MANY CONNECTIONS ARE REQUIRED?

To calculate how many connections are required in the building, count the number of flats in the building and then add 0, 1 or 3 depending on if the landlord supply is to: not be connected; be connected and is single-phase; or be connected and is three-phase.

Examples

- 27 flats and the landlord supply is not to be connected = 27 connections
- 12 flats and a single-phase landlord supply is to be connected = 13 connections
- 47 flats and a three-phase landlord supply is to be connected = 50 connections

B. HOW MUCH SOLAR PV CAN BE INSTALLED?

Calculate the amount of solar PV (in kWp) that can be installed on the building in the same way you would for a traditional solar system. This can be an estimate at this stage.

C. IS THERE SUFFICIENT PV FOR EVERY CONNECTION?

Simply divide the total amount of kWp that can be installed by the number of connections. If this equates to more than 1 kWp per flat, the site is most likely suitable for a SolShare system.

D. METER LOCATION

The location of the electricity meters determines the complexity of the installation and therefore has an impact on the installation price.

- The meters are located together in a meter cupboard:
 - **Lower** labour costs with minimal cable runs
 - Apartment access **isn't** required
- The meters are located on each floor:
 - **Medium** labour costs with cable runs to each floor
 - Apartment access **isn't** required
- The meters are located within the flats:
 - **Higher** labour costs with cable runs into each flat
 - Apartment access **is** required

E. ISOLATION CONFIGURATION

The SolShare gets connected directly downstream from the meter isolator and upstream from the apartment main switch. A suitable site must, therefore, have **both** a meter isolator and an apartment main switch within the consumer unit inside the apartment.

If your site does not have both isolation points, please contact Allume.

F. MAIN NEUTRAL TERMINAL


The SolShare has one output neutral that must be connected to the building's main neutral terminal. If the flats are connected directly to the distribution network resulting in no main neutral terminal, the SolShare **cannot be installed**.

G. PHASE MATCHING

The SolShare has up to 15 outputs: 5 on L1, 5 on L2, and 5 on L3. Each flat **must** be on the same phase as the SolShare output phase. e.g. if a flat is on L2 phase, it must connect to an L2 output from the SolShare.

You must be able to identify what phase each flat is on within the building. There are various methods of doing this, please contact Allume if you are unsure.

H. PRICING

You will need to speak with a renewable energy installer who is certified to install a SolShare system to gain an official quote. However, as a guideline, a complete SolShare solar system typically costs between £2,000 - £4,000 per flat  is for the complete system: panels, inverter, SolShare, cabling, labour etc. everything that is needed to supply the flats with solar PV.

This price range is determined by a number of factors like the relative size of the system per connection and the complexity of the installation.

I. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU IDENTIFY A SUITABLE BUILDING

When you identify a suitable building for a SolShare system, contact Allume and we can talk you through the next steps. We can assist you and/or your customers in every part of the journey, from modelling the building in our software and producing a system design to liaising with our network of certified installers to provide quotes and install the system.

CONTACT

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